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PB-9907

GAU 1623

#9/B
9-18-01
J. Crane

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: A. Bhan, et al.

Group Art Unit: 1623

Serial Number: 09/498,773

Examiner: L. Crane

Filed: February 5, 2000

For: Method for Deprotecting Oligonucleotides

Response to Office ActionHonorable Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed June 7, 2001, in connection with the captioned application, please consider the following amendments and remarks.

In the Specification

Please amend the paragraph at page 4, lines 20-25, as follows:

Preferably, the phosphate protecting group is a group capable of undergoing β -elimination, such as 2-cyanoethyl[phosphate]. The reagent cleaves the phosphate protecting group from the oligonucleotide by β -elimination. Preferably, the reagent comprises an amine with a formula $R-N-R_1R_2$ wherein R, R_1 and R_2 are independently hydrogen, hydroxy, alkyl, allyl, aryl, cycloalkyl, alkenyl, alkoxy, allyloxy, aryloxy, and may include from one to twenty carbon atoms.